



Maryland Department of Planning

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Press Release

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Planning Secretary Appoints Government Veteran as Deputy

Amanda Stakem Conn has 25 years' experience at state, local levels

BALTIMORE, MD – State Planning Secretary Richard E. Hall, AICP, today appointed Amanda Stakem Conn, Esq. to serve as deputy secretary for the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP). Ms. Conn, who previously served as Counsel and Assistant Attorney General to the agency, will help lead the 150-member state planning department. In this position, she will be responsible for the agency's administration and monitor the day-to-day activities of the staff of planners, demographers, mapping technicians, and historic preservation specialists.

"I'm confident that Ms. Conn will step into the role of deputy secretary of planning without missing a beat," Hall said. "While she has big shoes to fill, her wealth of experience in both state and local government make her an ideal choice for deputy."

Conn will take the reins in late June, replacing former Deputy Secretary Matthew J. Power, who recently left the agency to direct StateStat, Governor O'Malley's performance management tool aimed at improving government efficiency.

Having worked as the Department's Director of Policy for one year in addition to serving as principal Counsel for the last two years, Conn is well-qualified to become the second in command at MDP. She is well-versed in the workings of state and local government, with experience in the legislative and executive branches. Ms. Conn worked as a legislative assistant to former Governor William Donald Schaefer and as a Baltimore County assistant county attorney specializing in zoning, planning, preservation and County Council matters. Conn brings significant political experience that will benefit the agency, having worked as committee counsel to the House Environmental Matters Committee and deputy legislative liaison for Baltimore County. She was also Of Counsel at the law firm of Funk & Bolton, where she represented local governments across the state.

Conn is an adjunct professor of law at both the University of Maryland and University of Baltimore Schools of Law, where she co-teaches a course on legislation. She is the co-author of "The Court of Appeals at the Cocktail Party: The Use and Misuse of Legislation" published in the Maryland Law Review. She is the author of "Battling the Voices of Unreason: HUD

Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor

Richard Eberhart Hall, AICP, Secretary
Matthew J. Power, Deputy Secretary

Plays Foul in its Fight To Uphold the Fair Housing Act.” She is the past chair of the State and Local Government Law Section Council of the Maryland Bar Association, which represents state and local government lawyers in Maryland and is a frequent lecturer on land use issues for the Bar Association and other organizations.

Conn is a graduate of the University of Maryland and the University Of Baltimore School Of Law and a member of the Maryland Bar, the U.S. Supreme Court Bar, the Maryland U.S. District Court Bar and the Bar of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. She resides in Baltimore with her husband and their two school-age children.

MDP provides planning and implementation support to sister agencies, local governments, communities, businesses, and various organizations. As the state’s lead information disseminator on planning, the agency administers smart growth programs as well as the Maryland Historical Trust, which focuses on cultural and historic preservation.

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